

No. 6571	號壹十七百五千六第	日十三月壹十年寅戊緒光	HONGKONG, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1878.	壹年週	號三十二月二十年	港香	[PRICE \$2] PER MONTH
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INTIMATIONS

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and water since 1875 for some decision with regard to the bill. I don't know what fresh delays would have arisen from the reference here. It might, perhaps, be disastrous to say a word as to the Home Office. I am sure that the Government would be in a local Office and would be able to do the best required at a moment's notice, and it seemed to me that while this question was being referred to Sir John Gwynne we might possibly become involved in a long and fruitless discussion. It is true we have been, exceedingly fortunate, and unparallelled luck has attended us in having no evidence since 1875, but I think if a typhoon or other such with the structure in its present condition the chances are even of the matter being referred to the Home Office. I think it seemed to me very prudent not to analyse the works, because there was no evidence with the day would be agreeing with the hon. member (Mr. Kew) it is a good idea to have a word about what is read. I think it is the best thing to push on with the works and complete them before the next typhoon season. There are also other considerations. I think it is better that they be left to be completed. One is that the Government had entered into contracts and these would have had to be cancelled, giving rise possibly to a great deal of trouble. It had to be considered. These, with other considerations, led me to the conclusion that it is wisest to continue the works as now proposed. I have no objection to the Government's not agreeing that replanting did not comply their request to having the Pong-ah-wood cutting trees. They would have been very glad to have had it done, but it is not possible to suggest that the Commission should do this several, and they thought that might be done by following the plan of the Commission, leaving the matter well standing and putting the new wall to the Government.

His EXCELLENCY—It is under this vote that occurs the item of tree plantings on which I will say a word or two. You are aware that last year I had some objections as to the necessity of having replanting done in the plantations in this island. Without recapitulating what then passed, I will say I have now in the series which my hon. friend the Surveyor-General has presented to me, a list of 1,000 of seedlings, some of which will be able to plant out immediately. My hon. friend has been able to utilise the money you were good enough to give for replanting in employing coolies to dig the holes and to plant the trees in the various portions of the hills and notably near the new road which is now called Plantation-road, but I may here tell you the estimate for planting the 1,000 seedlings is only £1,000. The cost of one million or two millions, would have reached the amount of \$38,000. It might be regarded that to plant out in 443 colonies a million acres of trees it might be well to say out of £50,000, the Government would have to pay the expenditure voted by this Council goes, on a more moderate scale, and I am now in communication with certain Chinese who have expressed an interest in the matter. They are of the hills, the hills, the hills, and otherwise several portions of the colony, to undertake to plant out these trees at their own expense on certain conditions, by which they would be bound on the trees, and the Government would be bound, according to Chinese custom, is derived from young plantations. My hon. friend is aware that wherever there is an old established plantation, the Government would be bound to plant out, and I think I should say I see plantations of fir trees round the islands which have sprung up there, all of which have to be replanted. They collect the seed, spread it out on clean floors of trees and afterwards plant it. Some of the trees are now six or seven or ten years old. The Government would be bound to replant them, but taken for firewood. A certain portion of the tree must remain and they have very strict rules in their village communities on this subject and the system seems to me very fairly carried out on the whole. I think the Government would be bound to the Government is that we should also something of the kind to be done on parts of the island which it was not the intention of the Government to replant. I think the Government has not been decided, but my inclination is to embrace the offer of the Chinese. They have great foresight and they look forward at the end of ten years to being recompensed for the expenditure they would have to incur.

The next item of the bill was first roads, bridges, and bridges, which was passed without dissent.

His EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, I am only expressing what you all said in conformity to my own from the Surveyor-General. The thanks of the Council are due to the Surveyor-General, who has done his work in this colony. (Hear, hear.) I have often to take distinguished strangers who come here to take the Colony and from one and all I hear the same thing; judging from the fact that they are all so well pleased, I would they have visited from what they see here, they say "You have the best Surveyor-General." (Applause.)

The other matter having been agreed to, the Bill passed.

His EXCELLENCY—I now move that the Bill do pass.

Hon. F. DEWEES seconded.

His EXCELLENCY—I would now, gentlemen, with your permission, move the first reading of an Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hong Kong, and the Council of the Colony, to amend Ordinance No. 3 of 1853, on title—An Ordinance for licensing and regulating the sale of prepared opium. What I have to say is, that this bill is intended to be read at the first time now, and in an ordinance of this kind you will all understand the necessity of passing it rapidly. The bill is now in print, but the copies have not been distributed, and I think I should say to every hon. member will have a copy of it. I will not now venture to fix a day when we may resume but I will communicate with you and the members of the Council that you will find the Council will do so. I may tell you briefly that it is an Ordinance that does not deal with any of the points to which my hon. friend has alluded when he has kindly alluded to on this subject on the month of August. On the contrary it is an Ordinance which deals only with topics that then met your complete approval. My hon. friend the Attorney-General has drawn it up in conformity with the views of the Council of objects and reasons. On the principle established at Singapore it makes certain provisions respecting the outgoing former taking any quantity of opium to be sold in the colony. There are provisions with that object and such provisions will exist in the law here, if the Ordinance passes. On the other hand, it is a law which will be in force in the colony. The officers, inasmuch as the Government has the power of appointment on the nomination of the Governor, and will have certain powers, precisely similar to those which exist in Singapore as to the sale of opium, and I think I should say that the bill is prepared, and if they see no objection being prepared, with itself, and in the same place the person who is using such means in his possession of opium, that it is to be considered as a serious offence. The bill is in principle all over the world, because the law opium will really be a part, as it were, of the materials employed in a contraband way. Furthermore, a search warrant can be issued not only by a police magistrate but by any justice of the peace who has reasonable cause to believe there is hold. 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